

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 RANGOO 02812 041809Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----098378 041815Z /42
P 041034Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5734

S E C R E T RANGOON 2812

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 AND 2
TAGS: SNAR, BM
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: USAGE REPORTING ON INC PROVIDED AIRCRAFT

REF: STATE 132712

1. AS INSTRUCTED BY REFTEL, EMBASSY SENT LETTER REQUESTING INFORMATION ON UTILIZATION OF INC PROVIDED AIRCRAFT TO PEOPLE'S POLICE FORCE DIRECTOR U SHWE THAN. BY A LETTER DATED JULY 17 HE INFORMED US THAT HE WAS THE WRONG ADDRESSEE FOR SUCH A REQUEST AND THAT THE REQUEST SHOULD BE MADE TO THE MINISTER OF HOME AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS.

2. WE REQUEST DEPARTMENT APPROVAL OF OUR TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO MINISTER OF HOME AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS U SAN LWIN. TEXT, WHICH FOLLOWS, DIFFERS SOMEWHAT FROM TEXT USED IN LETTER TO U SHWE THAN--WHICH HAD BEEN PROPOSED BY REFTEL. RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGES FOLLOWS TEXT OF SUGGESTED LETTER.

3. BEGIN TEXT. DEAR MR. MINISTER: I GREATLY APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU ON MAY 8 TO DISCUSS OUR MUTUAL INTEREST IN SUCCESSFUL NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION IN BURMA. WE CONTINUE TO BE APPRECIATIVE OF THE NARCOTICS

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SUPPRESSION EFFORTS OF THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT THAT CONTRIBUTE SO IMPORTANTLY TO OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS.

AS YOU ARE AWARE, IN OUR AGREEMENT OF 1974, YOUR GOVERNMENT AGREED TO PROVIDE NECESSARY INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS AS AND WHEN REQUIRED. IN THE PAST, CERTAIN INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED INFORMALLY. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, OUR

CONGRESS HAS PLACED INCREASED EMPHASIS ON THE UTILIZATION OF EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS FOR NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION PROGRAMS. THUS, WE ARE REQUIRED TO SEEK MORE FORMAL ARRANGEMENTS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE USE OF SUCH EQUIPMENT.

AS A MINIMUM, THEREFORE, WE WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA PROVIDE FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR AND--SUBSEQUENTLY--AT LEAST ON A SEMIANNUAL BASIS, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(A) TOTAL HOURS FLOWN FOR ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE SUPPRESSION OF ILLEGAL CULTIVATION, PROCESSING, PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING OF NARCOTIC DRUGS; AND (B) TOTAL HOURS FLOWN, BY TYPE OF AIRCRAFT.

WE ARE ADDRESSING THIS TO YOU AS CHAIRMAN OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD. RECOGNIZING THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO THIS TYPE OF INFORMATION, WE THEREFORE REQUEST THAT YOU OBTAIN THIS INFORMATION FOR US FROM THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE, SO THAT WE MAY REPORT TO WASHINGTON AT THE END OF OUR FISCAL YEAR-- SEPTEMBER 30.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT AS WE INCREASE THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NARCOTICS MATTERS EVEN GREATER COOPERATION IN THIS IMPORTANT EFFORT WILL BE POSSIBLE, A RESULT OF WHICH WILL
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REDOUND TO THE BENEFIT OF BOTH THE AMERICAN AND BURMESE PEOPLES.
END TEXT.

4. THE RATIONALE FOR OUR RECOMMENDATION OF THE USE OF THIS TEXT RATHER THAN THE TEXT AGREED UPON EARLIER: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE ARE FORMALLY REQUESTING SUCH INFORMATION FROM THE BURMESE. IN THE PAST, WHEN THE MATTER HAS BEEN RAISED BY MISSION OFFICERS WITH RESPONSIBLE BURMESE OFFICIALS, THEY HAVE STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT GUB HAS COMPLIED WITH THE AGREEMENT. WHEN PRESSED FOR DETAILS, THE BURMESE HAVE RANKLED AND HAVE SUGGESTED THAT A DETAILED ACCOUNTING REGARDING THE USAGE OF U.S. SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT IS NOT CALLED FOR BY THE TERMS OF THE 1974 AGREEMENT. SOME HAVE ADDED THAT SUCH REQUESTS IMPLY A U.S. ACCUSATION OF BURMESE MISUSE OF SUCH EQUIPMENT AND AN IMFRINGEMENT ON BURMESE SOVEREIGNTY. WE BELIEVE THAT THE BARE MINIMUM OF INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE THAT REQUESTED ABOVE AND THAT THE BURMESE WOULD NOT REACT ADVERSELY TO OUR CITING THE AGREEMENT. IT WILL PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH A REASONABLE INDEX OF BURMESE PERFORMANCE FOR CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY. MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE REQUIRED FOR CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY AND NOT REALLY NECESSARY FOR THE SUPPORT PROGRAMS. GENERAL LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT, WHICH DEPENDS ON ORDER OF BATTLE INFORMATION

COLLECTION--AN ITEM OF EXTREME SENSITIVITY HERE--CAN BE
OBTAINED BY INDEPENDENT MEANS IN DETAIL SUFFICIENT FOR NORMAL
USG PURPOSES. IN SUM, WE FEEL THAT BY PRESENTING THE LETTER
IN THE SUGGESTED FORM WE WOULD HAVE THE BEST CHANCE OF
OBTAINING THE INFORMATION WE SEEK AND RAISING THE FEWEST
BURMESE HACKLES IN THE PROCESS.

5. AS EMBASSY OFFICERS HOPE TO MAKE INTRODUCTORY CALL ON
U SHWE THAN'S SUCCESSOR, U THEIN AUNG, IN AUGUST 8-11 PERIOD
AND AS WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO TRANSMIT LETTER BEFORE
THAT DATE, DROPPING COURTESY COPY WITH U THEIN AUNG, REQUEST
DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL OF LETTER OR ALTERNATIVE TEXT PRIOR TO
AUGUST 8.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, AIRCRAFT, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978RANGOO02812
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DC IS ALSO X1
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780319-0822
Format: TEL
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780897/aaaaddqg.tel
Line Count: 136
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 32ed356a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: 78 STATE 132712
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1834757
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS: USAGE REPORTING ON INC PROVIDED AIRCRAFT
TAGS: SNAR, BM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/32ed356a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014